

Message Text

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12-S
ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 EA-06 NEA-07 ARA-06 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 PRS-01 SP-02

AF-04 SSO-00 INRE-00 /066 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9058

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 3630

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 31ST UNGA: CORE GROUP MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 1976

REF: A) STATE 219341 B) USUN 3578

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: KOREAN CORE GROUP MET AT USUN
SEPTEMBER 8 AND DECIDED TO LAUNCH LIMITED SOUNDINGS OF
NORDIC AND ASEAN STATES' ATTITUDES TOWARD DEFERRAL
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MOTION IN UNGA. CANADA AGREED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS

PERMITTING APPROACH TO NORWAY FOR THE SOUNDING OF THE NORDICS, WHILE NEW ZEALAND WILL ASK INSTRUCTIONS TO APPROACH AUSTRALIA FOR THE SOUNDING OF THE ASEANS. A BROADER SOUNDING BASE WAS REJECTED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE GROUP, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF NERVOUSNESS ABOUT LEAKS OF INFORMATION ON THE TACTIC WE ARE CONSIDERING. IN REPORTS FROM CORE GROUP CAPITALS, CANADA, BELGIUM AND THE UK REPORTED STRONG SKEPTICISM THAT A DEFERRAL MOVE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND ADVISED AGAINST SOUNDINGS. OTHERS EXPRESSED VARYING DEGREES OF NERVOUSNESS ABOUT DEFERRAL TACTICS BUT AGREED THAT LIMITED SOUNDINGS WERE USEFUL. THE ROK SPOKE STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF THE SOUNDING EFFORT. OTHER ASPECTS OF CORE GROUP DISCUSSION REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KOREAN CORE GROUP MET AT USUN SEPTEMBER 8 WITH ALL PRESENT EXCEPT COSTA RICA. AGENDA CALLED FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION FROM GENERAL LOBBYING EFFORT, DISCUSSION OF EFFECTS OF PANMUNJOM INCIDENT ON UNGA ATMOSPHERE FOR KOREAN ITEM, AND COORDINATION OF LOBBYING AND VOTE ESTIMATION EFFORT IN COMING PERIOD. THIS MESSAGE DEALS ONLY WITH GROUP'S ACTIONS ON DEFERRAL PROPOSITION.

3. MOVE TO DEFERMENT: CHAIRMAN AHN (ROK) CALLED FOR REPORTS ON POSITIONS OF CORE GROUP MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SEEKING DEFERMENT AND THE APPROACH TO OTHER PARTIES TO INITIATE SOUNDINGS ON PLENARY VOTE, WHICH WAS AGREED AT SEPTEMBER 2 CORE GROUP MEETING:

A. NEW ZEALAND REPORTED THAT WELLINGTON IS NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS FOR DEFERMENT MOVE, BUT HAS CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO TAKE SOUNDINGS BY FRIENDLY NEUTRAL GOVERNMENTS. CORE GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM THE SOUNDING PROCESS. AUSTRALIA, AS A SELF-PRONOUNCED "INDEPENDENT" WOULD BE GOOD CHOICE FOR APPROACH TO ASEAN STATES, WHILE NORWAY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE PROXY FOR APPROACH TO NORDICS
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AND NON-ALIGNED. FRANCE MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR APPROACH TO WIDER GROUP IF ABOVE INITIAL SOUNDINGS APPEAR SAFE AND HOPEFUL. NEW ZEALAND ALSO NOTED THAT PRC ATTITUDE IS CRUCIAL DETERMINANT OF SUCCESS OF DEFERRAL MOVE, AND ASKED WHETHER US HAS HAD CONTACTS OR OTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING CURRENT PRC ATTITUDES. (NO US RESPONSE WAS REQUIRED OR OFFERED IN THE FLOW OF THE DISCUSSION.)

B. CANADA SAID DEFERRAL IS NOT WORTH A TRY. THEY FELT THAT IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT OTHER STATES WOULD GO ALONG WITH THIS TACTIC, AND THE MOVE WOULD PROVE FUTILE. MOST OF THE WORLD IS TIRED OF THE KOREA DEBATE. WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON HARD, STRAIGHT LOBBYING FOR OUR PROPOSAL.

C. BELGIUM WAS OF THE OPINION THAT WE SHOULD TRY FOR DEFERMENT ONLY IF SUCCESS IS CERTAIN. BRUSSELS BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE FAR FROM CERTAIN. EVEN MANY FRIENDLY STATES WOULD BE BROUGHT TO ABSTENTION RATHER THAN SUPPORT FOR AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE ISSUE. BELGIUM IS NOT IN FAVOR OF DEFERRAL.

D. UNITED KINGDOM IS VERY APPREHENSIVE OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SOUNDING PROCESS, FEARFUL THAT IT COULD BE TRACED BACK TO THE GROUP OF SUPPORTERS WITH ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR SUPPORT IN GENERAL. FURTHERMORE, LEAKAGE OF WORD THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING DEFERRAL TACTICS WOULD BE TAKEN AS INDICATIVE OF OUR WEAKNESS. LONDON IS NOT KEEN TO TAKE SOUNDINGS, BELIEVING THAT IT WOULD NOT BE WORTHWHILE UNLESS SUCCESS IS A CERTAINTY. THE SOUNDING PROCESS MIGHT EVEN BE SERIOUSLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THE UK REPRESENTATIVE EMPHASIZED THAT LONDON'S VIEW RELATES ONLY TO SOUNDINGS NOW WITH REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE; NO VIEW HAS BEEN EXPRESSED BY LONDON REGARDING TACTICS TO BE ADOPTED IN THE PLENARY.

E. JAPAN BELIEVES THAT IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT DEFERRAL TACTICS COULD SUCCEED IN THE GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE, BUT IF THE ROK AND A MAJORITY OF THE CORE GROUP WANT TO TAKE SOUNDINGS JAPAN WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS. IT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DISADVANTAGEOUS IF THE OTHER SIDE DISCOVERED WE WERE MAKING DEFERRAL SOUNDINGS, SO THE SOUNDINGS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN ANY EVENT IN A VERY NARROW GROUP OF COUNTRIES BY STATES NOT MEMBERS OF THE CORE GROUP.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 3630

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F. NETHERLANDS POSITION STARTS WITH THE
OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING ABOVE ALL THE REPETITION OF
LAST YEAR'S OUTCOME IN THE GA, ADOPTION OF TWO
CONTROADICTORY RESOLUTIONS. THE HAGUE, THEREFORE, IS
IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT IF IT CAN BE ACHEIVED.
SUGGESTED THAT THE DEFERRAL MOTION BE PUT FORWARD AFTER
THE DEBATE IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE TO SHOW THAT, WHILE
WE ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF CONFRONTATION WE ALSO HAVE NOT
RUN FROM PRESENTATION OF OUR POSITION. THE HAGUE BELIEVES
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THAT IF WE INTRODUCE DEFERRAL BEFORE DEBATE IN THE
GENERAL COMMITTEE WE WILL BE SEEN TO BE WEAK. THE

WHOLE ISSUE WOULD BE BETTER CONSIDERED AT THE END OF THE GA, IF THAT COULD BE MANEUVERED.

G. US REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTED VIEWS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. A.

H. ROK CHAIRMAN SPOKE STRONGLY FOR SUCCESSFUL DEFERMENT MOVE, BUT SAID THE ROK WOULD NOT WISH TO MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION IN THE FACE OF CLEAR INDICATIONS OF LIKELY FAILURE. THE ROK PRESENTLY FIRMLY ESTIMATES DEFERRAL TACTICS WILL SUCCEED. IN ANY EVENT, ROK WISHES TO AVOID ANY SITUATION IN WHICH PRO-DPRK RESOLUTION IN ADOPTED AND LANGUAGE THEREIN ONCE AGAIN PLACED ON PUBLIC RECORD. ROK WOULD BE UNSATISFIED, HOWEVER, IF A DECISION BY THE GROUP IS TAKEN AGAINST DEFERRAL WITHOUT AT LEAST SOME QUIET SOUNDINGS BEFORE DISCARDING THE IDEA. HE URGED THE GROUP TO UNDERTAKE LIMITED SOUNDINGS OF THE PROSPECTS FOR A DEFERRAL MOTION.

4. FOLLOWING THE INITIAL REPORT OF POSITIONS, THE CANADIAN REP SUPPLEMENTED HIS REPORT TO SAY THAT HE AND HIS AMBASSADOR ARE WILLING TO ADMIT WITH OTTAWA INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXTENT OF TRYING DEFERRAL AT THE END OF THE SESSION, WHEN TIRED DELEGATES MIGHT WELL BE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH IT. THE UK REP FURTHER INSISTED THAT, IN LIGHT OF HIS INSTRUCTIONS, HE COULD NOT APPROVE OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH SOUNDINGS. IF, HOWEVER, THE MAJORITY OF THE GROUP VOTED IN FAVOR OF SOUNDINGS, HE INTERPOSED NO FURTHER OBJECTION.

5. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION PRO AND CON, THE GROUP AGREED THAT AUSTRALIA SHOULD BE ASKED TO APPROACH THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS AND NORWAY SHOULD BE ASKED TO APPROACH THE NORDICS FOR QUIET SOUNDINGS AS A BASIS FOR FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO DRIVE FOR A DEFERRAL MOTION. THE MAJORITY OF THE GROUP AGREED THAT THE CRUCIAL INTERESTS OF DISCRETION BARRED EXPANDING THIS GROUP
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FURTHER. FRANCE WAS DISCARDED BECAUSE OF PERSONNEL TURNOVERS AT THE FRENCH MISSION IN NEW YORK MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO PURSUE EFFECTIVE SOUNDINGS ON THIS SUBJECT, AND BECAUSE OF FRENCH POLICY PRE-OCCUPATIONS (BELGIAN ADVICE). AUSTRALIA HAS GIVEN SOME INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN THIS WAY, ACCORDING TO NEW ZEALAND, WHILE NORWAY HAS SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN THE ISSUE AND INFLUENCE AMONG THE NORDICS TO DO A DEPENDABLE JOB. DIRECT

APPROACH TO THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WAS REJECTED BY THE GROUP, PRINCIPALLY ON GROUNDS OF SECURITY OF THE SOUNDING EFFORT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO PROXIES SHOULD BE GIVEN LATITUDE TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVE LEVEL FOR THE SOUNDINGS AND FORMULATION OF TALKING POINTS, BASED ON THE GUIDELINES DETERMINED BY THE GROUP: (A) CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SOUNDINGS IS ESSENTIAL; (B) EACH GOVERNMENT WILL BE ASKED NOT ONLY HOW IT WOULD VOTE ON DEFERRAL, BUT ALSO WHETHER IT WOULD BE WILLING TO WORK FOR IT DURING THE GA; (C) EACH GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO BE ASKED FOR ITS BROADER APPRECIATION OF OTHER STATE ATTITUDES AND LIKELY VOTES, PERMITTING AN INITIAL ANALYSIS WITH BROADER SCOPE THAN THE LIMITED NUMBER OF STATES APPROACHED IN THE SOUNDING; AND (D) AUSTRALIA AND NORWAY WOULD BE ASKED TO UNDERTAKE THE SOUNDINGS ON THEIR OWN BEHALF, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE CORE GROUP GOVERNMENTS.

6. THE GROUP CALCULATED THAT THE EARLIEST AUSTRALIA AND NORWAY WOULD BE ABLE TO LAUNCH SOUNDINGS, ASSUMING FAVORABLE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROMPTLY RECEIVED BY ALL CONCERNED, WOULD BE EARLY WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13. IN EXPECTATION THAT WE MIGHT HAVE RESULTS AT THE EARLIEST BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, CORE GROUP SET NEXT MEETING TO CONSIDER THESE RESULTS FOR 3:00 PM SEPTEMBER 15, WITH AGREEMENT TO MEET EARLIER OR LATER AS PERMITTED BY THE PROGRESS OF THE SOUNDING EFFORT.

7. OTHER ASPECTS OF SEPTEMBER 8 CORE GROUP DISCUSSION WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.
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